Timothy Heran, DTR 4134 S Broad St Apt I-8 Yardville NJ 08620 May 5, 1999

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Dockets Mgmt Branch (HFA-305) FDA 5630 Fishers Ln Rm 1061 Rockville MD 20852

Dear FDA:

I am writing in regard to Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food."

I believe that Irradiated foods should be prominently labeled in plain and easily understood language.

The citizens of the United States of America should not be misled by tricky labeling phrases such as "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization." Or worse yet, not to be informed at all.

I am a Dietetic Technician, registered with the American Dietetic Association. I know that irradiation can alter the vitamin content of foods and may also change the sensory quality of foods.

These are qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer and we have a right to make an informed decision about the foods we buy for our families.

Furthermore, I believe that the long term effects of irradiated food consumption by humans has not been evaluated sufficiently.

Please keep irradiation labeling prominent by requiring product packaging and produce signage to use the radura symbol and the word "irradiated."

Sincerely,

Timothy Heran, DTR

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DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305) FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION 5630 FISHERS LN ROOM 1061 ROCKVILLE MD 20852